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Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in that country

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 1233 (1999), by which the Council requested me to keep it regularly informed and to submit a report on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS). Subsequently, in paragraph 11 of its resolution 1580 (2004), the Council requested me to submit a written report to it every three months.

2. The report focuses on developments since my previous report, dated 31 March 2009 (S/2009/169), in particular the political and military crisis that followed the assassinations of the Head of State and the Chief of the General Staff and the preparations for the presidential elections to be held on 28 June. The report also includes recommendations for an integrated peacebuilding office in Guinea-Bissau and its proposed mandate, structure and staffing requirements, as requested by the Security Council in a letter dated 22 December 2008.

II. Political developments

3. The period under review was characterized by significant political tensions that had an impact on the smooth functioning of State institutions. The apparent calm that followed the assassinations of President João Bernardo Vieira and the Chief of the General Staff, General Tagme Na Waie, in March 2009, was disrupted on 4 June, when the Minister of Territorial Administration and candidate in the presidential elections, Baciro Dabo, was killed by armed men in military uniform early in the day at his residence. Another leading parliamentarian from the ruling African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC) was killed with his driver and bodyguard in a car ambush at approximately the same time. According to the State intelligence services, both were allegedly resisting arrest and, together with eight other people, including four members of Parliament, were accused of involvement in a coup attempt. Those assassinations were unanimously condemned by the international community, including the Security Council, my Representative in Guinea-Bissau, the Economic Community of West African States

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(ECOWAS), the African Union, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP) and the European Union. On 9 June, interim President Raimundo Pereira, who was outside of Guinea-Bissau when the two senior officials were killed, confirmed that presidential elections would be held on 28 June, after having consulted with the Government, political parties and the National Electoral Commission.

4. Following the unfortunate events of March 2009, there was a high risk of a constitutional crisis over conflicting provisions regarding the organization of presidential elections: the Constitution provides for a 60-day term of office of an interim President before elections are held, while the Electoral Law envisages a longer time frame for the holding of elections. Interim President Pereira held extensive consultations with parliamentary and other political parties, as well as with members of civil society, to avert a constitutional crisis and secure a consensual solution on the period of his mandate. The intention was to establish an election date that would enable the State to function and respect the spirit of the Constitution before full constitutional order is restored through presidential elections.

5. A memorandum of understanding signed on 31 March by the interim Speaker, the Prime Minister and two parliamentary parties, PAIGC and the Social Renewal Party (PRS), acknowledged that the Constitution severely limited the scope of the interim President, leading to a virtual paralysis of the Government and Parliament. The memorandum of understanding stated that a legal and constitutional solution was not possible and proposed a political solution involving suspending the limitations imposed by the Constitution while retaining those preventing the interim President from dissolving the National Assembly or dismissing the Government. It also extended the mandate of the interim President to 120 days. Interim President Pereira issued a decree on 31 March setting 28 June 2009 as the date for the elections.

6. On 14 March, the Council of Ministers nominated Navy Commander José Zamora Induta, the spokesperson of the Commission of Military Chiefs set up on 1 March after the assassination of the Chief of the General Staff, General Tagme Na Waie, as the new Chief of the General Staff, and Colonel António N'djai, Commander of the Northern Military Command, as the Vice-Chief. The nominations were sent to the interim President for promulgation.

7. On 6 April, João Bernardo de Miranda, former Minister of External Relations of Angola was appointed as the African Union Special Envoy for Guinea-Bissau. He visited Bissau from 21 to 26 April.

8. Twenty-one political parties not represented in Parliament issued a communiqué on 2 April condemning what they termed "the drift from the rule of law in the country". The communiqué stated that the Government had shown its incapacity to take charge and called upon it to resign. It urged the National Assembly to hold a debate on the situation in the country and warned the international community that the deteriorating situation threatened the institutions of the State.

9. On 4 April, the interim President issued a presidential decree confirming the appointments of Commander Zamora and Colonel N'djai on an interim basis until an elected president of the Republic was sworn in. Critics argued that the

Constitution attributed the power to make such appointments only to an elected president. There was also some unease that more senior officers in the hierarchy had been passed over.

10. In a special debate on the situation in the country on 7 April and in the face of growing disquiet over the role of the military, the Minister of Defence, Artur Silva, assured Parliament that the situation was calm and that the military was subordinate to the civilian authorities.

11. The country's international and regional partners continued to show solidarity with Guinea-Bissau during the reporting period. The twenty-sixth ministerial-level meeting of the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council was held in Bissau on 19 March 2009. The meeting recommended that ECOWAS mobilize international support, including from the United Nations, for the preventive deployment of the military and police to ensure the protection of institutions of the State, Government officials and the electoral process. It recommended immediate steps to implement the ECOWAS plan of action against drug trafficking, using Guinea-Bissau as one of the pilot countries. The Council also addressed the issue of impunity and called for the creation of an international commission of inquiry into events in the country since August 2008, when Rear Admiral Bubo Na Tchuto allegedly carried out a coup attempt.

12. The CPLP Council of Ministers, meeting in Praia on 25 March, supported the establishment of an international commission of inquiry. It endorsed the ECOWAS proposal on preventive security deployment, if it was requested by the Government of Guinea-Bissau, coordinated by the African Union and undertaken under a mandate from the United Nations. However, on 1 April, the Minister of Social Communication and Spokesperson of the Government denied that the Government of Guinea-Bissau had made any request for such a deployment and highlighted that what was needed was international support for security sector reform. Subsequently, on 20 April, a donor round-table conference on security sector reform was held in Praia (see sect. IV below).

13. Following the tragic events of March 2009, the participatory dialogue programme Voz di Paz, led by the National Institute of Studies and Research in partnership with Interpeace, postponed its plans to validate the results of its 10-month grass-roots consultations last year. Instead, it initiated a series of forums in Bissau on the state of the nation in order to learn lessons from the events. The cycle of forums will culminate in a national forum on the state of the nation later in 2009. Validation exercises on the results were held in the regions with a view to turning the national validation, to be rescheduled later this year, into the culmination of a broad-based process that started in the regions. Voz di Paz is also strengthening the capacities of participants in nine "regional spaces of dialogue" through conflict mediation training and those of 20 community radio stations under the theme "media and peace".

14. The National Assembly held an extraordinary session from 6 to 9 April mainly to debate the 2009 budget, which was adopted with 65 votes in favour and 28 abstentions. The second ordinary session of the National Assembly took place from 4 to 22 May.

III. Elections

15. On 23 March, the Government requested United Nations support for the presidential elections. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) immediately provided assistance to the national authorities in mobilizing funds and deployed a team of technical experts to the National Electoral Commission and the Technical Electoral Support Office. The assistance also includes civic education and training for polling station officials. The Government presented a budget of nearly $5 million, which envisages a first round and possible run-off election in the event that no candidate secures a majority in the first round. The budget did not, however, include costs related to security operations to ensure peaceful elections, amounting to $700,000. The Commission, in a letter to my Representative on 7 May, requested that UNOGBIS coordinate the activities of the international observers. The European Union confirmed in early May that it would be deploying an electoral observation mission.

16. There were five candidates in the internal contest of the ruling PAIGC. On 24 April, Malam Bacai Sanha was elected as the party's candidate with 144 votes, as against 118 for interim President Pereira. Twenty candidates had applied to the Supreme Court to stand in the elections by the deadline of 28 April. They include former President Mohamed Yalá (PRS) and former transitional President Henrique Pereira Rosa (Independent). The Minister of Territorial Administration, Baciro Dabó, who had withdrawn from the PAIGC contest, applied as an independent candidate. Mr. Dabó suspended his ministerial duties for the duration of the campaign. Seven of the candidates are independent. The Supreme Court published a final list on 19 May validating 13 applications, including those of Mr. Bacai Sanha, Mr. Yalá and Mr. Pereira Rosa. The only female candidate is Francisca Vaz Turpin of the Guinean Patriotic Union.

17. Civil society organizations are undertaking various initiatives aimed at promoting peaceful elections. On 9 May, two youth groups supported by UNOGBIS launched a project aimed at promoting tolerance and mitigating violence during the elections in various popular suburbs in the capital. The project will be building on lessons learned from the UNDP quick-impact pilot youth advocacy initiative, conducted in 2008. UNOGBIS is also endorsing a culture for peace and code of conduct initiative called "night of peace for democracy", promoted by the Citizens of Goodwill, Voz di Paz and Justice and Peace, among other organizations. With a view to building expertise towards enabling free, fair and transparent elections, UNOGBIS, in partnership with the faculty of law of the University in Guinea-Bissau, will repeat a training-of-trainers course for election agents in June 2009, as was done before the legislative elections in November 2008. UNOGBIS has set up a fund to facilitate media coverage of the elections.

IV. Military developments and security aspects

18. The situation within the military in the period under review remained fragile and was characterized by deep distrust and an uncertain future. A number of military officers and civilians were arrested in connection with a parallel investigation launched by the military into the bomb explosion that killed General Tagme. Over the weekend of 21 and 22 March, the military set up roadblocks on access routes into Bissau and searched vehicles and houses for weapons, allegedly after a tip-off.

The home of the former Navy Chief of Staff was searched and some weapons were removed. Commander José Zamora Induta said on 26 March that those actions, as well as the arrest of Pedro Infanda, were preventive measures. On several occasions, the new military leadership accused unnamed politicians of attempting to incite the lower ranks against them. The security arrangements for the interim Chief of the General Staff were visibly increased, leading to recommendations by a parliamentarian in the National Assembly that the size of his escort be reduced.

19. The Defence and Security Reconciliation Commission embarked on its sixth round of consultations since its inception in 2005 with defence and security personnel in Bissau and the regions. The consultations were organized to discuss the events of 1 and 2 March 2009, the role of the defence and security forces in democracy and institutional collaboration between defence and security personnel. They also sought to prevent any disruption of the presidential elections by uniformed men. UNOGBIS provided logistical support for the regional trips.

20. On 23 March, the Government of Brazil handed the refurbished premises of the Military High Court over to the military authorities. On 26 March, the National Assembly Guinea-Bissau passed legislation authorizing a Brazilian military cooperation mission in the country, thus paving the way for Brazil to deploy the mission, which had been authorized by the National Congress of Brazil in September 2008. The Minister of Defence of Brazil subsequently visited Bissau on 27 March and held high-level talks with Government and military authorities.

21. UNOGBIS has developed a project with the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons to hold five one-day workshops throughout the country to validate the national survey on small arms and light weapons. Two such workshops have been held, on 27 and 28 February, in the regions of Buba and Gabú. The workshops are an essential step in drawing up a plan of action to implement a small arms and light weapons programme with ECOWAS and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat. Following the events of March, the implementation by the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons of a Canadian-funded pilot project to collect and destroy a limited number of small arms and light weapons in Gabú was postponed, as the security conditions were considered unfavourable.

22. During the reporting period, the public security situation deteriorated in Bissau. Twenty-one political parties called upon the Government to resign because of its inability to protect citizens and institutions, following two armed robberies of small shops in Bissau and the hold-up of a security vehicle transporting funds from one of the commercial banks to the Central Bank of West African States. Most of the 92 million CFA francs reportedly seized by the five men was subsequently recovered by the police, and the suspects, as well as their accomplices, were charged and are now in detention awaiting trial.

23. Fifteen agents from the Public Order Police and border and immigration services attended a three-day training workshop in Bissau, organized by UNOGBIS, from 8 to 10 April. The training focused on the role of the police in a democracy, ethics and legal conduct, the use of force and weapons and human rights. A second workshop will target police and other law enforcement bodies in the regions. Between February and April an area measuring 253,673 square metres was cleared of 7,804 pieces of unexploded ordnance, 4 anti-personnel mines and 43 detonators by the national non-governmental organizations Humanitarian Aid and Lutamos

Todos Contra as Minas, under the coordination of the National Mine Action Coordination Centre.

V. Security sector reform

24. Pursuant to the decision of the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council on 19 March (see para. 10 above), a donor round table on restructuring and modernizing of the defence and security sector in Guinea-Bissau was organized by CPLP, ECOWAS, UNOGBIS and the Governments of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde in Praia, on 20 April. The purpose was to identify the key constraints to the speedy implementation of the security sector reform programme and ways and means of overcoming them and injecting new life and dynamism into the programme. Participants included representatives from 29 countries, the African Union, CPLP, ECOWAS, the European Union, the International Organization of la Francophonie, the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations and Chairperson of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission and various United Nations agencies.

25. The round table made a number of recommendations, including the setting up of a pension fund, the creation of a police academy and the strengthening of institutional capacity to provide special security protection for democratic institutions and their representatives. With regard to the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime, the conference highlighted the commitment of the police forces of Guinea-Bissau to cooperate with the international community. It stressed the regional dimension of drug trafficking and the need for both a national and an international response. The conference also recommended that coordination of the dialogue on security sector reform with the international community be the responsibility of the Government of Guinea-Bissau, which could be supported by UNOGBIS. During subsequent consultations between my Representative and European partners in Lisbon, Brussels and London from 4 to 12 May, all have recognized the role of the European Union/European Commission in security sector reform and the need for a more coherent approach on security sector reform, including police reform. In this context, the role of the United Nations in coordinating the efforts of the international partners on security sector reform was reiterated.

26. A census of veterans of the war of liberation was carried out from 12 March to 25 April. At the request of the Government, the European Commission agreed to fund an additional exercise from 19 May to 6 June, as it was felt that there had been insufficient time to complete the previous one. The Government also agreed to extend the mandate of the European security and defence policy mission of the Council of the European Union, which was to expire at the end of June, until the end of November.

VI. Drug trafficking and organized crime

27. In March, the Judicial Police arrested an Eritrean national residing in Bissau, allegedly for being involved in the smuggling of two Eritrean citizens from the territory of Guinea-Bissau. In the course of investigations, the Judicial Police uncovered a network involved in producing false travel documents within the

immigration services. The case was reported to the relevant administrative and judicial authorities for action.

28. In the context of the Commission of Inquiry into the assassinations of President Vieira and General Tagme, Judicial Police officers trained with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) proved to be instrumental in investigative operations, searches and case-building for the prosecution. On 27 April, UNODC organized the second two-month training session for 20 officers of the Judiciary Police at the Brazilian Police Academy.

29. In a letter dated 27 March 2009, the Prime Minister commended the crucial efforts of UNODC under the operational plan to combat drug trafficking and organized crime. He officially requested UNODC to complete the design of a police academy and a high-security prison in Bissau, within the framework of a trilateral partnership between UNODC, Brazil and the Ministry of Justice of Guinea-Bissau.

30. On 21 April, in the margins of the eighteenth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Vienna, a programme concept was launched by UNODC, the United Nations Office in West Africa, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). The programme is a joint United Nations-INTERPOL initiative to support the implementation of the 2008-2011 ECOWAS regional action plan to address the growing problem of illicit drug trafficking, organized crime and drug abuse in West Africa. The overall objective is to reduce drug trafficking and counter associated organized crime in the region by providing assistance to strengthen both national capacities and cross-border cooperation among ECOWAS member States. Guinea-Bissau is one of the pilot countries.

VII. Activities of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund

31. The Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission continued its engagement with the country, focusing in particular on security sector reform and preparations for the presidential elections. The Commission held several meetings with a view to enhancing coordination, coherence and the prioritization of international support for Guinea-Bissau. On 25 March, the Commission held a videoconference in New York with national stakeholders and partners, including the Minister of Defence, representing the co-Chairperson of the National Steering Committee for Peacebuilding. The discussions focused on enhanced assistance for political stabilization and overall peacebuilding to be provided by the Commission in collaboration with national and international partners. On 15 April, the country-specific configuration held a videoconference on enhancing coordination and coherence in security sector reform initiatives in Guinea-Bissau with national partners and relevant international actors. On 11 May, the Commission held a briefing with the participation of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank representatives to discuss their activities in Guinea-Bissau. The Commission reinforced its call to the international financial institutions to apply flexible measures and to increase their funding for the socio-economic needs of the country, which are critical to peacebuilding.

32. The Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations, Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, in her capacity as the Chairperson of the Guinea-Bissau configuration, visited the country from 16 to 18 April. She held consultations with national political stakeholders and partners in order to maintain momentum and enhance the Peacebuilding Commission's engagement with Guinea-Bissau.

33. During the reporting period, some progress has been achieved in the implementation of the projects funded by the Peacebuilding Fund in Guinea-Bissau. As part of the Ministry of Youth/UNDP project on professional training and employment of youth, a training programme will be implemented in selected centres in Bissau and regions, targeting 500 young people, from June to September 2009. Training on enterprise creation and management was held for 17 trainers in April. With regard to the Ministry of Justice/UNODC project for the rehabilitation of selected prisons, discussions are under way between the Ministries of Justice and Interior on identifying another prison in Bissau for rehabilitation, as technical reports confirmed that the rehabilitation work on one of the four prisons selected for rehabilitation was not feasible. Delivery or handover of the refurbished prisons in Bafata, Mansoa and Bissau is expected to take place at the end of August. UNODC has acquired the logistics materials and equipment for the establishment of data management files in the respective prisons and a vehicle for the transportation of prisoners. Relevant specialized training for prison management will be organized by the Ministry of Justice and UNODC in June. Implementation of the Ministry of Defence/United Nations Office for Project Services project for the rehabilitation of military barracks is under way. Delays in the first phase, which should have ended in April, were hampered by the events of March, in which one of the military barracks to be rehabilitated was the target of the bombing. In determining the second tranche for the Peacebuilding Fund, it is critical that international partners and the international financial institutions prepare a common assessment of the country's needs on the basis of a coordinated approach.

VIII. Economic and social aspects

34. The fiscal and economic situation in the country is extremely difficult. The Government faces major challenges in repaying sizeable domestic arrears, including three months of civil service salary arrears from 2008 and two months of current salaries. Following the IMF mission to Bissau from 17 February to 3 March, the Government agreed to implement numerous measures to control spending, increase revenue collection and improve transparency and governance. It is estimated that Guinea-Bissau will need budgetary support amounting to $44 million in 2009. Assuming that it meets agreed benchmarks under the emergency post-conflict assistance programme, the Government hopes to move to a Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility arrangement with IMF later in 2009.

35. The price of cashews on the international market is depressed, and producer prices have dropped considerably relative to 2008. Farm gate prices are between CFAF 75 and CFAF 150 ($0.15 to $0.30) a kilo as against CFAF 250 to CFAF 350 ($0.50 to $0.70) in 2008. Although the Government did not fix a reference price, it is negotiating with national private entrepreneurs to purchase cashews at CFAF 200 to CFAF 230 per kilo. Compared to the equivalent period last year, social tensions over food prices have lessened, owing in particular to controls on basic food and

fuel prices. However, a food security analysis conducted by the Government, civil society and development cooperation partners warned of a possible food crisis.

36. The continuing inability of the Government to pay civil service salary arrears is a source of social tension and disillusionment. The health and education sectors have been affected by a wave of strikes, further limiting access to basic social services, particularly for vulnerable groups such as children and women. Infant and under-5 mortality rates continue to increase, and over 45 per cent of school-age children do not have access to school. The lack of communication on the agreements regulating the disbursement and use of donor funds to support education contributed to misconceptions that exacerbated tensions between the Government and teachers. The repeated disruptions in schools, together with the late start of the school year in mid-December 2008, threaten to invalidate the school year. As a consequence, only 27,000 children out of 150,000 were fed under the World Food Programme canteen programme. In addition to having a chronic lack of power, the capital city of Bissau is suffering severe water shortages owing to a lack of power to operate pumping equipment. This heightens the country's vulnerability to cholera, which is endemic in Guinea-Bissau. In addition, about 200 children are trafficked every month outside the country.

37. The World Bank conducted multi-stakeholder consultations from 27 to 29 April in preparation for the 2009 interim strategy note. The Government and an Angolan bauxite-mining company signed an agreement on 8 May giving the company the concession to build, manage and operate the port of Buba, in the south. According to the promoters, the port will be the largest deep-water port in the subregion and is being built within the framework of a $300 million bauxite-mining project in the south.

IX. Human rights aspects

38. The Prosecutor General on several occasions voiced concern that the lack of proper financial, technical and security conditions for the Commission of Inquiry impeded its investigation into the events of 1 and 2 March. The Commission was assisted by two officers from the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation. The UNOGBIS human rights unit followed the pre-trial investigation and monitored the proceedings with regard to respect for the rule of law and human rights standards. The Commission questioned the validity of the parallel military investigation and lack of cooperation from the military in disclosing the names of the military personnel on duty at President Vieira's home at the time of his assassination. The Judicial Police also complained of the inaction of military authorities in returning the military service men who were being held in Judicial Police detention cells in connection with the attack against President Vieira's residence in November 2008, but who were subsequently released by armed men in uniform on 2 March.

39. In a six-page document, the Military Commission introduced a report that comprises a 150-page document, 11 microcassettes and 5 tapes, all of which are meant to be handed over to the tribunal. The Prosecutor General has requested the full report and the 10 military suspects allegedly detained by the military. The various suspects detained by the military also include civilians who are not under military jurisdiction. Access to the detainees by lawyers and their families has been irregular and, according to the International League for Human Rights, some of the

detainees showed signs of torture. There were particular concerns over the health of a former Air Force Chief of Staff, General Manuel Melciades Fernandes.

40. On 2 April, an armed individual threatened the security of the President of the Human Rights League of Guinea-Bissau, Luis Vaz Martins, shortly after the League had issued a press release denouncing serious human rights violations committed by elements of the military. The threat followed the arbitrary detention and torture of the lawyer of former Navy Chief of Staff Bubo Na Tchuto, Pedro Infanda, on 23 March, and the physical attack against the President of the Audit Court, Francisco Fadul, on 1 April. My Representative issued a press statement reiterating the right of all citizens to freedom of expression and condemning the incidents. The Prosecutor General established a commission to investigate the events.

X. Implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and resolution 1820 (2008)

41. During the reporting period, the gender thematic working group, co-chaired by UNOGBIS and the United Nations Population Fund, continued to provide support in the process of reporting to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Following the forty-third pre-session working group of the Committee, held from 19 January to 6 February 2009, a list of questions was sent to the Government of Guinea-Bissau to be completed and returned together with the combined report and annexes, translated into one of the working languages of the Committee. In this context, the working group is providing technical support to the Institute for Women and Children under the Ministry of Solidarity.

XI. Staff security

42. The crime rate continues to be relatively low. One house burglary involving a United Nations staff member was reported during the period under review.

XII. United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau

43. In a letter to the Secretary-General dated 22 December 2008, the President of the Security Council noted the need to establish an integrated United Nations office in Guinea-Bissau, as recommended in the statement made by the President of the Council on 15 October 2008 (S/PRST/2008/37). The Council requested that I provide recommendations by 15 June. An inter-agency technical assessment mission to Guinea-Bissau was undertaken from 21 to 30 April to articulate United Nations priority objectives for peace consolidation for the country and to develop proposals for the establishment of an integrated United Nations presence. Following consultations with various departments and agencies, I propose that UNOGBIS be succeeded in January 2010 by the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) for an initial period of one year.

A. Mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau

44. I propose that UNIOGBIS be mandated to assist the Government of Guinea-Bissau in, inter alia:

(a) Assisting the Peacebuilding Commission in its multidimensional engagement with Guinea-Bissau;

(b) Strengthening the capacity of national institutions in order to maintain constitutional order and full respect for the rule of law;

(c) Supporting national authorities to establish effective and efficient law enforcement and criminal justice systems;

(d) Supporting an inclusive political dialogue and a national reconciliation process as an institutionalized peace consolidation framework;

(e) Providing strategic and technical support and assistance in developing and coordinating the implementation of the security sector reform strategy;

(f) Assisting national authorities to combat human trafficking, especially child trafficking, drug trafficking and organized crime;

(g) Undertaking human rights promotion, protection and monitoring activities and supporting the institutionalization of respect for the rule of law;

(h) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into peacebuilding, in line with Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008);

(i) Facilitating national efforts to curb the proliferation of small arms and light weapons;

(j) Enhancing cooperation with the African Union, ECOWAS, CPLP, the European Union and other partners in efforts to contribute to the stabilization of Guinea-Bissau;

(k) Helping in the mobilization of international assistance.

B. Structure and strength of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau

45. It is proposed that UNIOGBIS be headed by a Special Representative, who would report to me through the Department of Political Affairs. The Special Representative, at the Assistant-Secretary-General level, would be responsible for the implementation of the mandate of UNIOGBIS and the overall management of the mission. The Special Representative would be supported by a Deputy Special Representative (D-2), who would also serve as the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the UNDP Resident Representative. The Deputy Special Representative would act as the Head of Mission in the absence of my Special Representative.

46. The staffing strength of UNIOGBIS should include my Special Representative, his/her deputy and 38 substantive staff (27 international Professional staff and 11 national Professional staff). The Department of Safety and Security has indicated

that a total of 37 officers would be necessary, including 8 for the close protection of the Special Representative. The integrated office would be supported by 5 administrative assistants, 32 administrative support and logistics staff, 5 United Nations Volunteers and 16 United Nations police.

47. UNIOGBIS would comprise a front office to support my Special Representative and his/her deputy and four substantive sections focusing on the key areas of the mandate, namely political affairs, human rights and gender, security sector reform, and public information. Each substantive section would work with United Nations country team actors, as appropriate, on shared substantive areas of work under a common vision for the integrated United Nations in Guinea-Bissau.

48. The front office of my Special Representative would include a Chief of Staff (D-1), a Senior Strategic Planning Officer (P-5), a Policy Adviser on countering narcotics and organized crime, including trafficking in human beings (P-4) and a Special Assistant (P-3). The Chief of Staff would manage and coordinate the work of the substantive sections of the mission, represent my Special Representative in meetings when necessary and serve as officer-in-charge in the absence of my Special Representative and his/her deputy. The Special Assistant would assist my Special Representative in the execution of his/her responsibilities and draft relevant documents, including reports and code cables. The Senior Strategic Planning Officer would head and facilitate the work of the Strategic Planning Unit, which would undertake joint United Nations planning and promote the integration of the political and development aspects of the United Nations engagement in Guinea-Bissau to ensure coherence among the strategic aims and programmatic activities of all United Nations actors in the country. The Unit would also facilitate the engagement of UNIOGBIS and the United Nations country team with the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund. The Unit would include staff from the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, the United Nations country team and the Peacebuilding Support Office. The Policy Adviser on countering narcotics and organized crime, including trafficking in human beings, would provide advice to my Special Representative and assist the Government in developing integrated responses to the threat of increased drug trafficking and organized crime. He/she would draw on inputs from the UNODC regional office based in Dakar, in line with the ECOWAS plan of action on drugs and crime adopted in December by ECOWAS Heads of State and Government.

49. The Political Affairs Section would be headed by a Chief Political Adviser (P-5), who would provide strategic analysis on internal and subregional political developments and sustain direct engagement with key national and international counterparts. The Section would include three Political Affairs Officers (1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 National Professional Officer), who would work on strengthening national democratic processes, building the capacity of national institutions, especially the Parliament, and support the electoral processes. One Political Affairs Officer (P-4) and one National Professional Officer would support the political dialogue and reconciliation efforts, engage with the political parties and provide mediation support as needed. One Political Affairs Officer (P-4) and one National Professional Officer would liaise with subregional organizations to ensure synergies and complementarities with the mandated activities of UNIOGBIS and work with civil society and local media. The section would also have one Legal Affairs Officer (P-4) and one National Professional Officer who would advise my Special Representative in legal matters, especially in relation to constitutional law.

50. The Human Rights and Gender Section would be headed by a Chief Human Rights Officer (P-5), who would provide overall analysis, strategic and policy development advocacy and guidance on human rights issues and advise my Special Representative on human rights, gender and the rule of law. The Section would include one Human Rights Officer (P-4) and one National Human Rights Officer, who would be responsible for collection, verification, analysis and reporting and ensuring that the human rights dimension is reflected in the overall activities of UNIOGBIS and the United Nations country team. One Human Rights Officer (P-3) and one National Professional Officer would provide capacity-building and technical cooperation assistance in order to strengthen national capacity for the protection and advancement of human rights, especially by building relevant capacities of the national human rights institutions and civil society groups, assisting the Government to formulate national legislation, training key civil servants and State authorities and supporting human rights education programmes, technical cooperation programmes and awareness-raising campaigns. One Gender Adviser (P-4) and one National Professional Officer would work on strengthening national capacity for the protection and promotion of the rights of women, with particular emphasis on ensuring their inclusion and participation in national decision-making processes and programmes pertaining to peace consolidation, including security sector reform. In addition, the Gender Adviser would mainstream gender into the peace consolidation efforts of UNIOGBIS in line with Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008).

51. The Security Sector Reform Section would be headed by a Chief (D-1), who would be responsible for the overall development of the security sector reform strategy and policy of the mission, provide advice to the Special Representative and serve as the primary liaison with national and international counterparts. The Chief would be assisted by one Security Sector Reform Officer (P-5) responsible for strategy, policy and plans. In addition, two Security Sector Reform Officers (P-4) would be located in the National Security Sector Reform Steering Committee and Coordination Secretariat, and would support national coordination and programmes. The Section would also include one Rule of Law Officer (P-4), who would liaise with UNDP and other actors by providing technical and advocacy support to justice sector reform initiatives, including in the corrections system. One Defence Sector Reform Officer (P-4) would provide technical support and analysis to the Chief of the Section and the Security Sector Reform Officer on the development of a national defence strategy, as well as strategies for the respective armed forces and legislation for the defence sector. In addition, he/she would liaise with and provide technical advice to ECOWAS and the European Union in the development of a national defence policy and the training of armed forces. One Senior Police Adviser (P-5) and three Police Officers (P-3), including one dedicated to the fight against child trafficking, would work on police reform and assist national counterparts in capacity development, establishing and implementing accountability and oversight mechanisms, as well as professional standards for the police. The Police Adviser and Police Officers would supervise the work of 16 United Nations police officers. One Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Officer (P-3) and one National Professional Officer would liaise closely with UNDP and provide technical support for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process.

52. The Public Information Section would be headed by a Public Information Officer (P-4) responsible for the development and implementation of an information

and communications strategy and plan in support of the mission's mandates on security sector reform, political dialogue, reconciliation processes, human rights and gender. The head of the Section would also be responsible for the development of a media strategy, including a capacity-building programme for local media. The Section would include one Professional Officer (P-3) who would work with the head of the Section to support national authorities in their information and communications strategy on security sector reform. In addition, two National Professional Officers would assist in the engagement with the national media and other actors, and one national staff member would manage the mission's website.

53. The ability of UNIOGBIS to effectively implement its mandate will be contingent on the availability of the requisite logistical capacity and resources and operational support from the Department of Field Support.

54. In order for the United Nations to be able to provide critical support to Guinea-Bissau in the post-electoral period and to ensure a smooth transition to an integrated United Nations presence, I recommend that the current mandate of UNOGBIS be extended for a final period of six months, until 31 December 2009. During that period, the mission will continue to provide peace consolidation support to national authorities in accordance with its current mandate. I also recommend that the Office put in place any transitional measures necessary to ensure the smooth transformation of UNOGBIS into an integrated office.

XIII. Observations

55. I am encouraged that the State institutions and political and civil society actors were able to find a consensual solution to the constitutional dilemma that confronted the country in the aftermath of the assassination of the Head of State on 2 March. I hope that this heralds a new page in the political life of the country, one that favours national dialogue to resolve the critical challenges that face the country and that require solutions based on national consensus.

56. As they prepare for presidential elections on 28 June, I urge the people of Guinea-Bissau to meet their civic responsibilities, as they did in the 2008 legislative elections. I equally call upon the presidential candidates and their supporters to ensure that they show, in their words and their deeds, a corresponding high degree of civic responsibility and respect for the rights of their fellow citizens to freedom of expression and association and to contribute to a peaceful environment before, during and after the elections. In particular, the candidates and their supporters are encouraged to respect the decision of the electorate, to pursue any appeals through the appropriate legal channels, and to accept the final outcome of the elections. The military should respect the Constitution and retain the separation of the military from the political landscape. At the same time, political actors should not use or manipulate the military for personal objectives.

57. The elections are a key requirement for the restoration of full democratic order and the creation of an environment conducive to the reforms necessary for the sustainable recovery of the economy and development. I commend the international partners of Guinea-Bissau for their prompt response to the appeal by the Government for the technical and financial resources to hold these elections. It is imperative that the national focus after the elections be on how to unite the country

to carry out tough reforms and revitalize the economy so that the goal of providing basic services and creating jobs can become a reality.

58. A credible commission of inquiry is essential for ending the cycles of violence and impunity in the country. Guinea-Bissau and its international partners need to work together to ensure that the ongoing inquiry does not suffer the same fate as others in the past, which had failed to bring perpetrators to justice, undermined faith in the legal system and encouraged impunity. Justice is the cornerstone of a healthy democracy. The United Nations and the international community have on several occasions expressed their readiness to assist the Government in providing resources and conditions to ensure a sound and transparent national inquiry that serves the cause of justice.

59. I am concerned about the arrests of critics of the military leadership and attacks against them, and that the parallel military investigation breaches the rights of those detained. Truth and justice cannot be served through human rights violations. I appeal to the Government to work to ensure respect for the rule of law and for human rights.

60. The Government is grappling with a precarious financial situation and faces enormous deficits in paying salaries and in providing resources for basic social services. I commend the efforts of the international partners in organizing the round table in Praia and the plans for donor conferences later this year. However, it is critical that the international community and financial institutions come together to find flexible solutions for timely interventions in the country's efforts to build durable peace. While I recognize that the adverse international economic climate is affecting all countries, I nonetheless call upon the international partners of Guinea-Bissau to assist the country, as it cannot resolve its problems alone. I reiterate my appeal to the Government and its partners to pursue a dialogue on maximizing international assistance and pursuing much-needed reforms in the public administration and security sector. The reforms would allow the country to better manage assistance and resources and to invest in basic services and development.

61. I should like to conclude by commending the staff of UNOGBIS, under the leadership of my Representative, Joseph Mutaboba, as well as the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the personnel of the entire United Nations country team, for the important work they continue to carry out in Guinea-Bissau.